

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



## State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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### **GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 1,000 JOBS AT GLOBAL TRANSPARK** *State Grants Help Spirit AeroSystems Locate in Lenoir County*

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley announced today that Spirit AeroSystems Inc., the world’s largest independent supplier of commercial airplane assemblies and components, will open a manufacturing plant at the N.C. Global TransPark in Kinston. Plans call for investment of more than \$570.5 million and the creation of 1,031 jobs during the next six years. State grants from the One North Carolina Fund and Job Development Investment Grant program and a grant from the non-profit Golden LEAF Foundation to the Global TransPark Authority helped make the project possible.

“The Global TransPark was built to help this region make the transition from a tobacco-dependent economy to one that attracts knowledge-based, high-tech industries,” said Easley. “Today’s announcement not only shows that eastern North Carolina can successfully compete in today’s global marketplace, but that North Carolina continues to be a leader in the aerospace industry more than 100 years after the Wright Brothers made their historic first flight at Kitty Hawk. As we can continue to provide the skilled workforce, this is likely just the beginning of Spirit’s potential for bringing significant jobs and investment.”

Wichita, Kan.-based Spirit AeroSystems (NYSE:SPR), whose customers include Airbus, Boeing, Gulfstream, Cessna and Hawker Beechcraft among others, specializes in manufacturing composites; fuselages; pylons (which hold the engine to the wing), nacelles (which are engine components) and wing structures. Spirit’s long-term plans call for the Global TransPark facility to serve as a composite manufacturing Center of Excellence, using advanced technology in its production processes. Spirit employs 14,000 workers in five locations in the United States and Europe, including approximately 10,000 at the company’s headquarters in Wichita.

Spirit today announced it has signed an agreement with Airbus to design and produce a major composite fuselage structure for the A350 XWB (Xtra Wide-Body) program. Spirit will design and manufacture the Section 15 center fuselage frame section, a composite structure that will be approximately 65 feet long, 20 feet wide and weigh nearly 9,000 pounds. Accommodating this and other new work packages led to Spirit’s announced plans to expand its operations with a new facility in North Carolina.

While wages for the new jobs will vary by job function and responsibilities, the average wage will be about \$48,000 a year not including benefits. This is more than the Lenoir County average of \$27,042.

“The State of North Carolina met our requirements for financial incentives and this location offers a strong industrial base, a runway and port access, a growing labor force and an excellent technical training system,” said Spirit President and CEO Jeff Turner. “Additionally, the Global TransPark facility provided what we were looking for in a site.”

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